

statewide Florida Constitutional Revision Commission.

Tony is a loving husband and the father of three who continues to put passion in his every endeavor. He is a true inspiration and an exemplary Floridian.

Gracias por todo mi amigo. Thank you, Tony.

#### ENSURE HEAD START'S CONTINUED SUCCESS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 38th anniversary of the Head Start Program. As a former Head Start kid, I know firsthand the valuable, comprehensive education program that Head Start does for low-income families, and I celebrate the program's many achievements.

The Republicans, on the other hand, will celebrate Head Start's 38 years of success by pushing forward with the School Readiness Act. This legislation is not only a bad idea, it has the possibility of eliminating key services to nearly 1 million students by converting the Head Start Program to a block grant program. Block granting Head Start is a blockheaded idea that will undoubtedly hurt this very successful program.

One problem in particular with this plan is that States are already dealing with huge budget deficits, and they may be tempted to divert Head Start funds to use for other purposes. How would that improve the Head Start Program?

I urge my colleagues to celebrate Head Start's 38th anniversary by opposing this misguided legislation.

#### WHERE ARE IRAQI WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION?

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, Americans, indeed the whole world, are asking, why have we not we found any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the vast quantities of anthrax, small pox, serin, mustard gas and other agents, the nuclear weapons, or the near-nuclear weapons?

Congress has an obligation to the American people and to our men and women in uniform to conduct a full inquiry. I think the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is the right forum to do that.

Now, the administration says that Iraq has had 12 years of practice in hiding; the weapons were there, perhaps, but were destroyed; or maybe they were there, but they were moved; or maybe they were not there, but could be constituted on demand. In any case, either there is something wrong, or the

intelligence was too vague and imprecise to track what has happened to them.

The President says we are going to find weapons of mass destruction. He may be right. But it seems to me that before the President sent our troops into battle and committed our Nation to this war, we should have had a very good idea of just where those weapons of mass destruction were so that we could secure them and track them.

#### STATE VETERANS CEMETERY FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

(Mr. CASE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, as our troops come home from Iraq and we look forward to D-Day's 60th anniversary, we all feel a deep and renewed sense of gratitude for our Nation's veterans. And as increasing numbers, like members of my own Hawaii's famed 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, pass on, we must also remember that one of our basic promises to them is to be buried with their comrades in our great national cemeteries, from Arlington to my own National Cemetery of the Pacific.

But increasing numbers of States, 17 at last count, have no Federal VA cemetery, or else those cemeteries are now full. These States must pick up an increasing burden, which is and should be the Federal Government's, and the reality is that, for these veterans, their final resting places are suffering.

Today I introduced a simple bill to raise the Federal reimbursement for veteran burials in State cemeteries where there is no Federal VA option from \$300 to \$750. This is only fair, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

#### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO BOB HOPE

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at a very early point in my life, I was taught that you can celebrate your birthday the week before and the week after the actual date.

A week ago today, we all know that Bob Hope celebrated his 100th birthday. We are actually in the midst of the celebration of the 50th birthday of our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

When I think about Bob Hope, he is someone who I have been privileged to know for many years and have had the opportunity to spend time with him and his wonderful wife Delores and their family. But I will tell you, even when you are in small company with Bob Hope, you cannot help but be in awe of an individual who is virtually unparalleled in his commitment to the United States of America.

A year ago we were able to honor him by naming the Chapel at the Veterans

Cemetery in West Los Angeles, with the help of his friends, Mary Jane and Charles Wick. There are countless people all over this world who have to continue to be indebted to Bob Hope for the great sacrifice that he has made and the happiness that he has brought to so many millions of individuals.

Happy birthday, Mr. Hope.

#### LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME AMERICANS TREATED DIFFERENTLY

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Erin Doyel asked the question, "what about my kid?" Her kid in this case is Adrienne. Erin works as a financial administrative assistant. She earns \$12,675 a year. She goes to work every day. She is eligible for the child tax credit. In fact, she receives the child tax credit.

But what she will not receive is she will not receive the increase in the child tax credit that was passed this year, which would mean \$400 to families with children who are eligible. But the Republicans made a decision that people like Erin and her daughter Adrienne will not receive it because they earn between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year.

These are families with children who go to work every day, but they will not be given the benefit of the tax cut, they will not get the increase in the child tax credit, they will not have an easier time supporting their family for all of the hard work they do at very difficult and low wages, because the Republicans made a decision that Erin and Adrienne will not be included.

That is why Erin Doyel from Vallejo, California, is asking, what about my kid? Why are we treated differently than the rest of America's families?

#### ENSURING AMERICA'S SECURITY FROM TERRORISM

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, we have heard it said it so many times that it risks becoming a cliché: Our Nation is engaged in a war against terrorism. If I may be permitted one more cliché: Money is the lifeblood of any terrorist organization.

The ability of the September 11th terrorists to move money through American banks without sending up any cautionary red flags was critical to their success and our national tragedy. People attempting to open accounts in this country without Social Security numbers ought to be seen as a giant, flashing red neon flag. That is why we must refuse to allow banks to accept as legitimate identification any foreign government-issued identification document in lieu of a Social Security number.